

This report is set out in three sections:

1. **Activities 2015**
2. **The Difference DAFNE has made**
3. **Lessons learnt**

1. Activities 2015

Below is a narrative summary of activities undertaken in respect of the four pillars set out in the 2015 Action Plan. Details of all knowledge exchange activities and management meetings are provided in Appendix 1.

Membership Network and synergies

Two distinct areas of knowledge development and transfer have been identified i.e. a) Association practice that relates to what Associations do and how (i.e. their internal structures, processes and performance), and b) the operations and the interests of their members. As identified in the 2015 Winter meeting and follow up consultations, there exists a range of platforms for cooperation and knowledge transfer available within the network.



These include sharing of relevant documentation; sharing experience and intelligence, bilateral exchanges; multi-lateral exchanges; internships; workshops / discussion forums; collaborative projects; expert speakers; training. All of these have been encouraged and tested, and exchanges

and learning events were supported, where appropriate, by DAFNE scholarships. Activities included:

- DAFNE members bringing an international dimension by presenting to national conferences and events in Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal, and Russia
- Two plenary meetings of the network with involvement of observers
- Facilitated thematic exchange events around issues of Policy, Communications, Climate and Refugees

- Joint Peer Learning with WINGS on building an Evaluation Framework for infrastructure organisations
- Conducting a survey on Codes of Good Practice and sharing relevant documentation
- Engagement with potential members from Croatia, Serbia and Luxembourg

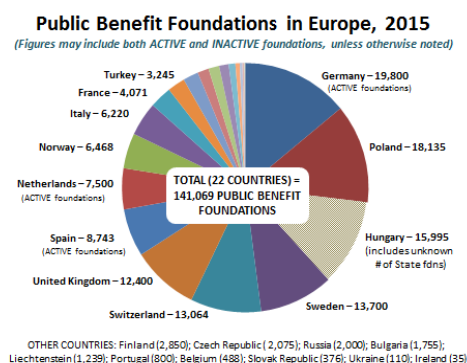
Effective communication with members was recognised as being fundamental to strengthening the capacity of the network. Reports on proceedings of DAFNE meetings are written up in a form suitable for wider circulation – in particular in order that DAFNE members can share learning with their own staff and their members. These are available in DAFNE Docs in the website members' portal. The members' area of the DAFNE website also hosts a cluster of 'Knowledge Hubs' where resources and practical guidance on specific themes are posted and shared.

DAFNE Digest was established as E-Newsletter for information in relation to relevant resources, policy updates, member news, events etc. Five editions were published in 2015.

Data and research

The main activity involved reviewing existing data and survey methodology leading to the establishment of a permanent data platform with two distinct elements a) data relating to the foundation sector and b) data relating to Associations. A report on the philanthropy sector in Europe was published in October [here](#) and enhanced Country Profiles updated on the website [here](#).

Association data is being collated in a systematic manner in order to develop an understanding of trends in the development of support infrastructure and to identify where there are specific knowledge sharing opportunities. The DAFNE survey results, available in the DATA and Research Hub, reveals that the number of Foundation members increased to 7,500 in the last year. The number of DAFNE members was reduced by one to 23 (from 22 countries) with the closure of the Romanian Donors Forum. Efforts are being made to help develop associations in countries where they do not currently exist and it is expected that new associations (and DAFNE members) will soon emerge in Austria, Croatia, Luxembourg and Serbia.



Advocacy

DAFNE has an important role to play as an influential voice in helping create an environment for effective philanthropy at national and European level and activity involved the development of strategic relationships with relevant policy informers and influencers and enhanced cohesion across the network.



DAFNE contributed significantly to joint position along with CoF, EFC and WINGS leading to revision of the Financial Action Task Force Best Practice Paper, and was an important partner along with EFC, EVPA and NEF in the organization of the Europhilantopics Conference 'Trust Matters'.

Communications

Recognising the importance of external communications a communication strategy using the website, speaking engagements, articles, and blogs was implemented. The DAFNE website was overhauled to improve its utility for members as a resource but in particular for non-members as source of information on the foundation sector at national and European levels.



The public face of DAFNE was further enhanced through presence on Twitter (@DafneHQ) – which helps demonstrate that DAFNE is an important part of the foundation and philanthropy infrastructure in Europe.



European Day of Foundations and Donors obtained higher profile in 2015 with Twitter (#October1Europe) connecting foundation members across Europe from the Ukraine to Spain. A report on country initiatives for was published in the European Day of Foundations and Donors Hub [here](#).



2. The Difference DAFNE has made

The activities referred to above have contributed to DAFNE objectives set out in the Action Plan i.e.

- Strengthened capacity and effectiveness of DAFNE members
- Increased knowledge and appreciation of the contribution of philanthropy to social development in Europe
- Strengthened cooperation with EFC and representation of the philanthropic sector
- Better articulated and promoted vision of strategic philanthropy and its role for strengthening democracy and improving quality of life

During the course of the year, and as one of the Learning Exchange activities, DAFNE members have been engaged along with members from WINGS in the development of an evaluation framework for infrastructure organisations. Below is set out achievements using this 4Cs Framework (Capacity, Capability, Connectivity, Credibility).

Capacity - Building Resources

DAFNE has worked to maintain a favourable legal and fiscal environment for philanthropy. It has contributed to informing the Financial Action Task Force Best Practice Review. DAFNE has shared experience in respect of national legislation and methods in respect of fundraising which was of particular relevance to Donors Forums in Central and Eastern Europe having a direct impact on financial capacity.

Capability - Building skills, knowledge and expertise

DAFNE has helped national associations learn from each other how best to provide services to build professionalism of their members, through learning exchanges, thematic interest groups, and the building of a knowledge hub of resources ranging from Codes of Good Governance through to data on the foundation sector.

Connection - Building relationships

DAFNE has provided a platform for communication, collaboration, and connection which reinforces efforts to build capacity and capability. Trusted relationships have been built across Europe which facilitates exchange of information and know-how through structured engagement.

Credibility - Building reputation, recognition and influence

DAFNE has contributed to the collective voice for Foundations at European level, and has strengthened representation at national level. This has raised the profile of national associations and helped build reputation, recognition and influence of Foundations amongst governments and civil society across Europe. Cross border exchanges around thematic issues have helped inform policy and practice and improved the effectiveness of foundations.

3. Learning from 2015

Key lessons emerging from activities undertaken in 2015 are:

1. It is important for DAFNE to develop and articulate a Vision for the longer term in order to secure resources, to develop strategic relationships, and to clarify roles and responsibilities.
2. Organizational capacity (rather than cost) has often been the key factor limiting participation in exchange activity however the involvement of other staff and foundation members where possible has been particularly fruitful in bringing specific expertise together and in encouraging the transfer of knowledge into associations.
3. Despite the remaining gaps in data about the philanthropy sector in some countries DAFNE members are best placed to build on the data platform.
4. The primary area of common interest in advocacy work relates to legislation that shapes the enabling environment. DAFNE's influence is best applied as appropriate through supporting the position of relevant lead advocacy organizations at European and / or global levels AND using the synergy of the network to strengthen advocacy action at national level.
5. There is a need to encourage pro-active use of the variety of communication tools (DAFNE Digest, Twitter, Website News/Resources and in particular the Knowledge Hubs).

Appendix 1

Knowledge Exchange Activity

Activity	DAFNE member participants
22-23.1.15 Winter Meeting (Warsaw) Report on Winter Meeting here	Anke Pätsch, Association of German Foundations, Anna Gulevska-Chernysh, Ukrainian Philanthropists Forum Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations Béatrice de Durfort, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Carola Carazzone, Associazione delle fondazioni di erogazione Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch, Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations David Emerson, Association of Charitable Foundations Diletta Brignoli, Belgian Network of Foundations Giorgio Righetti, Association of Foundations of Savings Banks (ACRI) Irina Efremova-Garth, The Russia Donors Forum James Magowan, DAFNE Kai Kilpinen, Council of Finnish Foundations Klara Splichalova, Czech Donors Forum Krasimira Velichkova, Bulgarian Donors Forum Laura Consorti, DAFNE Liisa Suvikumpu, Council of Finnish Foundations Magdalena Pękacka, Polish Donors Forum Mario Curveira Santos, Portuguese Foundations Centre Natalya Kaminarskaya, The Russia Donors Forum Hans Fleisch, Association of German Foundations Rien van Gendt, Dutch Association of Foundations (FIN) Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations Suzanne Gorge, French Centre for Funds and Foundations
German Association Conference (Karlsruhe)	Guest speakers Liisa Suvikumpu, Council of Finnish Foundations Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations
10.3.15 German-French Education Group Exchange	Andrea Schaefer French Centre for Funds and Foundations Roland Kaehlbrandt, Fondation Polytechnique, (former head of working group Education at the Association of German Foundations)
28.4.15 Bilateral Meeting of Spanish and Portuguese Association Boards	Respective Boards of both Associations
19.5.15 Summer Meeting (Milan) Report on Summer Meeting here	Anke Pätsch, Association of German Foundations Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations Béatrice de Durfort, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Carola Carazzone, Associazione delle fondazioni di erogazione Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch, Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations David Emerson, Association of Charitable Foundations Eilis Murray, Philanthropy Ireland Giorgio Righetti, Association of Foundations of Savings Banks (ACRI) Hans Fleisch, Association of German Foundations

	James Magowan, DAFNE Krasimira Velichkova, Bulgarian Donors Forum Liisa Suvikumpu, Council of Finnish Foundations Magdalena Pękacka, Polish Donors Forum Mario Curveira Santos, Portuguese Foundations Centre Rien van Gendt, Dutch Association of Foundations (FIN) Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations Valeria Kojnok, Hungarian Donors Forum
22.6.15 French Association Conference (Paris)	Guest speakers Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations James Magowan, DAFNE
9.7.15 Communications Exchange (London) Report on Communications Exchange here	Agata Tomaszewska, The Polish Donors Forum Anke Pätsch, Association of German Foundations James Magowan, DAFNE Keiran Goddard, Association of Charitable Foundations Laura Consorti, DAFNE Suzanne Gorge, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Suzette de Boer, Dutch Association of Foundations (FIN)
16-17 July DAFNE WINGS Peer Learning 1 (Madrid) Nest Steps document here	Burcu Uzer, Tusev Eduardo del Rio, Spanish Association of Foundations Esther Thompson, Association of Charitable Foundations James Magowan, DAFNE Lydia Moreno, Swiss Foundations Natalya Kaminarskaya, Russia Donors Forum Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations Suzanne Gorge, French Centre for Funds and Foundations
9.9.15 Meeting between French and Belgian Family Foundations	
28-29.10.15 Bilateral meeting with Spanish and Portuguese Foundations	Mario Curveira Santos, Portuguese Foundations Centre Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations Involving 17 Portuguese and 12 Spanish Foundations.
13.10.15 Luxembourg Conference (Luxembourg)	Guest speaker Béatrice de Durfort, French Centre for Funds and Foundations
9.11.15 Policy Exchange (Brussels) Policy Exchange Meeting Note here	Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations, Switzerland Carola Carazzone, Associazione delle fondazioni di erogazione Hans Fleisch, Association of German Foundations Isabel Penalosa, Spanish Association of Foundations James Magowan, DAFNE Laura Consorti, DAFNE Mario Curveira Santos, Portuguese Foundation Centre Richard Jenkins, Association of Charitable Foundations Rien van Gendt, Dutch Association of Foundations (FIN)

10.11.15 Europhilantopics 'Trust Matters' (Brussels) Keynote speaker blog here	Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations, Switzerland Béatrice de Durfort, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Carola Carazzone, Associazione delle fondazioni di erogazione David Emerson, Association of Charitable Foundations Diletta Brignoli, Network of Belgian Foundations Hans Fleisch, Association of German Foundations Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations James Magowan, DAFNE Laura Consorti, DAFNE Marine Bressand, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Mario Curveira Santos, Portuguese Foundation Centre Richard Jenkins, Association of Charitable Foundations
28-29.11.15 Strategy Retreat (Antibes)	Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations Béatrice de Durfort, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Carola Carazzone, Associazione delle fondazioni di erogazione James Magowan, DAFNE Coordinating Director Krasimira Velichkova, Bulgarian Donors Forum Rien van Gendt, Dutch Association of Foundations (FIN) Richard Jenkins, Association of Charitable Foundations Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations
10.12.15 Climate and Refugees Conference (Paris)	Guest speaker Cristina Andreatta, Association of Charitable Foundations
14-15.12.15 DAFNE_Wings Peer Learning 2 (Istanbul)	Anca Ilutiu, French Centre for Funds and Foundations Burcu Uzer, Tusev Eduardo del Rio, Spanish Association of Foundations Esther Thompson, Association of Charitable Foundations James Magowan, DAFNE Liana Varon, Tusev Lydia Moreno, Swiss Foundations

Governance

Steering Committee Members

Rosa Gallego, Spanish Association of Foundations (chair)
 Beate Eckhardt, SwissFoundations (from May 2015)
 Giorgio Righetti, Association of Foundations of Savings Banks (ACRI)
 Krasimira Velichkova, Bulgarian Donors Forum
 Seamus Mulconry, Philanthropy Ireland (to Feb 2015)
 James Magowan DAFNE Coordinating Director
 Laura Consorti DAFNE Secretariat

Steering Committee meetings: 12.1.15; 24.2.15; 16.4.15; 2.7.15; 1.9.15

DAFNE-EFC Coordination meetings: 23.1.15; 15.4.15; 16.7.15; 2.9.15; 10.11.15